

Olympic News



XIIth Olympiad, Tokyo, 1940

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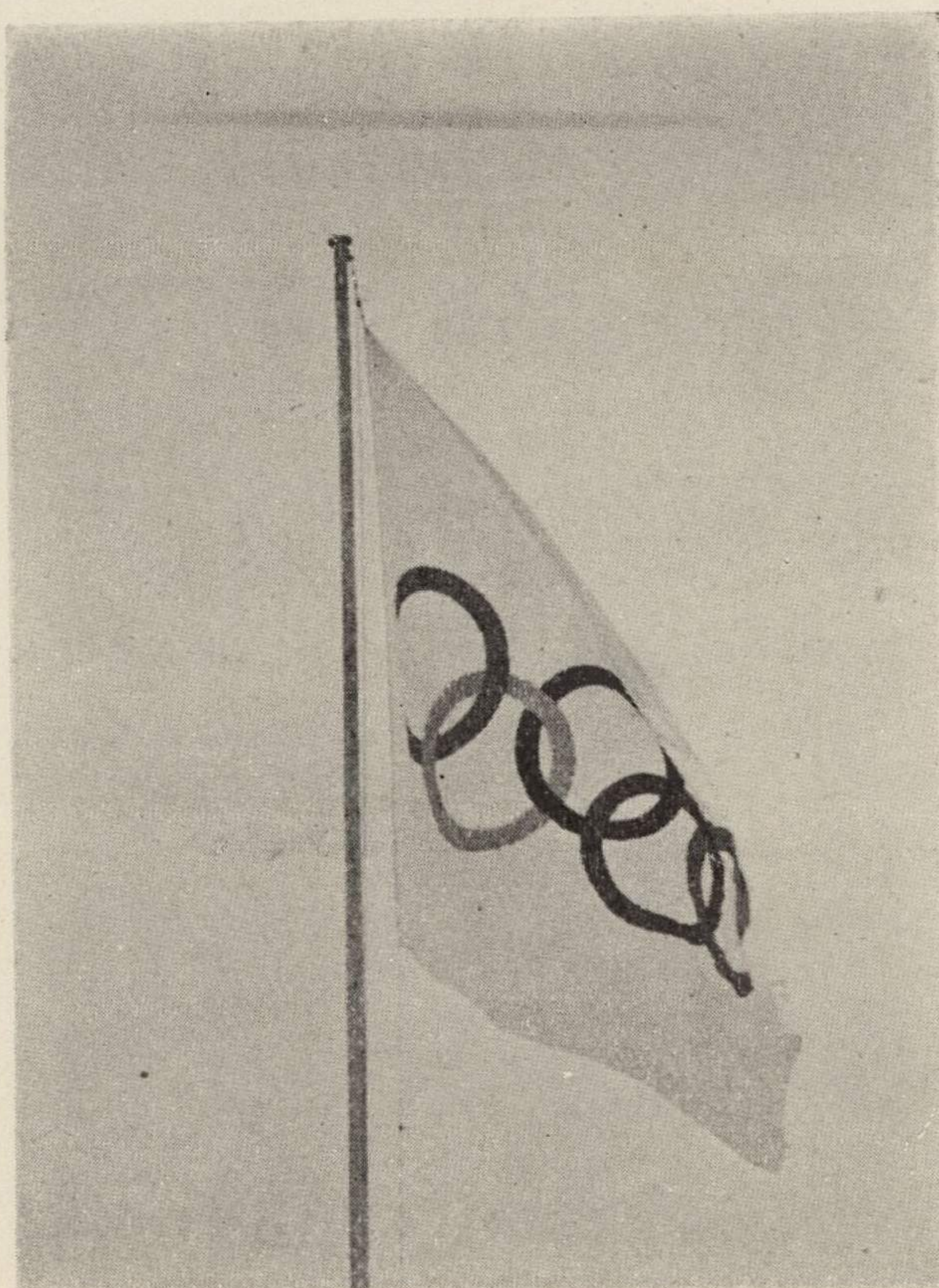
THE XIIth OLYMPIAD TOKYO 1940 RENOUNCED

Japan's participation in the Olympic Games dates back to the time of the Vth Olympiad held in Stockholm in 1912. It was a humble beginning, but since then, she has put forth her best efforts to realize the Olympic Spirit, keeping in stride with other countries. Her representations and competitors have increased with each successive Olympic meet since the Vth Olympiad. Her sports world at home in the meantime had become so highly developed and organized as to make Japan one of the most important supporters of the Olympic Games.

The Olympic spirit is world-wide in scope. But the Games has never been held outside of Europe and America, and Japan earnestly desired them to be brought to Asia. The City of Tokyo, with the heartiest support of the whole of Japan, duly presented itself as a candidate for the site of the Olympiad. When the International Olympic Committee finally decided to award the Games to the City of Tokyo, not only the sportsmen but the whole of Japan felt greatly honored, keenly conscious of the sacred trust imposed on her.

The Imperial Government, the City of Tokyo, and the National Olympic Committee of Japan came together and formed the Olympic Organizing Committee to prepare for the Games. The whole nation was behind the committee, advising it or co-operating with it so as not to disappoint those who had sufficient confidence in Japan to entrust her with this gigantic undertaking.

The Olympic Organizing Committee entered its third year of activity in 1938, and preparations for the Games were progressing most smoothly. But the trouble with China which started in July 1937, had come to take on larger proportions and it was gradually realized that all of Japan's resources must be mobilized to enable the nation to make a speedy end of the trouble. The question received careful consideration in all quarters, and finally, the Imperial Government decided to ad-



vised the Olympic Organizing Committee to give up the privilege in time for some other country to step in to prepare for the Twelfth Olympiad. The Organizing Committee and the people of Japan were deeply disappointed in having to give up the Games, but under the circumstances no other course was open.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation and gratitude to each and every member of the International Olympic Committee as well as to all the friends of Japan for the unfailing support

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